

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06  
CCO-00 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 PC-01  
/094 W

-----002938 201915Z /43

P R 201817Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5788  
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6101

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SHUM, PE  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON JULY 19 GENERAL STRIKE

REF: LIMA 6060

1. THE 24-HOUR JULY 19 GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY THE MOSCOW-  
LINE LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGTP), WHILE NOT OBSERVED BY MANY  
UNIONS, SUCCEEDED IN INTERRUPTING INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN LIMA AND LED  
TO SEVERAL ISOLATED OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE THAT WERE QUICKLY CONTROLLE  
D  
BY POLICE FORCES. THE STRIKE WAS LESS WIDELY OBSERVED IN OTHER  
CITIES IN PERU AND THERE ARE FEW REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES OUTSIDE OF  
LIMA. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF STRIKE ACTIVITY OR VIOLENT  
PROTESTS JULY 20. BUSINESSES ARE OPEN AGAIN, BUSES ARE RUNNING,  
AND WORKERS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS.

2. THE JULY 19 VIOLENCE CENTERED ON THE DISRUPTION OF A NEW  
MAIN ROADS LEADING INTO LIMA, MOSTLY BY ROCK-THROWING GROUPS  
OF YOUTH AND WORKERS. GOP REPORTS SIX DEATHS AND NUMEROUS INJURIES.  
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THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF MANY ARRESTS. ALSO, GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
WERE ATTACKED AND BURNED IN ONE OUTLYING LIMA AREA. ALL REPORTS  
INDICATE CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF POLICE AND ARMY  
TROOPS IN CONTROLLING THE DISTURBANCE.

3. A NUMBER OF LABOR LEADERS, INCLUDING EDUARDO CASTILLO  
SANCHEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CGTP, AND VICTOR SANCHEZ

ZAPATA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SMALLER BUT ALLIED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LABOR CONFEDERATION (CNT), HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY GOP. APAR-BACKED (CTP) UNIONS, ESPECIALLY THE IMPORTANT SUGAR PRODUCERS UNIONS IN THE NORTH, DID NOT SUPPORT THE STRIKE. THE FAR-LEFT BANK WORKERS UNIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND MINE WORKERS UNIONS IN TOQUEPALA AND ILO WERE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE PARTIAL STRIKE OBSERVANCE OUTSIDE OF LIMA.

4. EXTREMELY NOTABLE WAS THE COVEARAGE OF THE STRIKE AND THE OUT-BREAKS OF VIOLENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS & TV. ALL JULY 20 DAILIES FEATURED DETAILED AND APPARENTLY ACCURATE REPORTS ON THE EXTENT OF THE STRIKE AND THE INSTANCES OF VIOLENCE. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS OF PROTESTING MOBS AND ROCK-STREWN STREETS WERE DISPLAYED AS WELL. NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS KILLED AND ALSO SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS DETAINED BY POLICE WERE ALSO FEATURED. THIS COMPLETE AND PROMINENT REPORTING CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE ALMOST TOTAL OFFICIAL SILENCE UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO THE STRIKE AND THE VERY SKIMPY COVERAGE OF DISTURBANCES IN OTHER CITIES THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

5. COMMENT: THE GOP HAS WEATHERED THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF THE "ILLEGAL" JULY 19 STRIKE THROUGH QUICK, THOROUGH, AND YET GENERALLY RESTRAINED POLICE ACTION. THEY DID NOT GIVE THE COMMUNIST AND FAR-LEFT ORGANIZERS OF THE STRIKE THE PROBABLY HOPED-FOR HEAVY-HANDED RESPONSE IN THE FACE OF SCATTERED PROVO-CATIONS. A GREAT DEAL OF THE SUCCESS OF THE STRIKE IN SHARPLY

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CURTAILING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ACTIVITY IN LIMA CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE ALMOST TOTAL INTERRUPTION OF TRANSPORTAIIION WITHIN THE CITY WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR MANY NON-STRIKING WORKERS TO GET TO THEIR JOBS. ALSO A LARGE NUMBER OF SHOPS AND SMALL BUSINESS WERE CLOSED AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE AGAINST POSSIBLE DAMAGE BY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS. SHLAUDEMAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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